Dear Ray, 2.23.91

Thanks very much for the decent LA Times story on Greg Stone's suicide. I am glad to have it on file for the future.

In our more recent contacts I did not detect what I could regard as depression but in retrospect the very last may have reflected that. I'd thought he was burned out, I think he used those words with me and Wrone is certain he used them in a conversation only a day or two before he did it.

I go into this not only to inform you but also on the chance you can perhaps develop more information. Before I forget, would you please use the phone book and give me Paul LeMat's and Floyd Nelson's addresses? Thanks. LeMat, who'd been here, phoned me to tell me what he knew and of course I was grateful for it. I'd expected to hear more from him and haven't.

Probably before the last time he phoned me but I am clear in my recollection of that time, I pressed him, as I see the story reports others also did, the return to Wisconsin and get his doctorate. Quite the opposite of saying anything he could interpret as meaning that he'd failed, I told him that he had done all that it was possible to do. I know there were letters of which I did not make copies because of the problem I have in using the files but on the phone I went farthur, and it is all true, that he had done all he could reasonably expect to do, more than he had a right to expect he'd have been able to do when he started. I also warned him to be careful of Phil Melanson and I told him Melanson had begun to stake out a claim to own the subject of the assassinations on the other two and cribbing Greg's work would be next. We'll see, and I think it will not be all that long.

Greg's reason for not resuming his studies was that he had all that work to do on Sylvia Meagher's records. I aurgued with him on this. (I've since learned from Roger Feinman that in one area what I said was wrong.) I told xhim that anything that should be confidential would be marked that way and that we had no right to censor history. If anyone withheld other things, including on me, I told him, that would be censoring what could be known in the future. Roger tells me what Greg didn't, that Sylvia had the unpublished manucripts of others. I did not know that.

I told him that Roger could do that for him and he could go on with his life, as he should. He agreed that Roger could do it even better than he and he left me with the distinct impressiion that he would give this some thought because he said he would and in a coup,e of weeks would get back to me on it.

There was one thing that did trouble him. We discussed it at some length the last time he called and I think maybe once earlier but I'm not now certain. He told me that Oliver Stone had asked him to sell the rights to use Sylvia's book in his coming superdooper (about which I'd like to know anything you can tell me).

I told him that all he could use of Sylvia's book is public domain so he was really buyi ng the right to trade on her name. This did seem to trouble him. He could not think of any other reason Stone could have had.

He had given three different versions of this. To me he said Stone was offering $15,000. He told Wrone $25,000. I've forgotten what he told Wrone he'd do with the money and if Feinman told me, I've forgotten the sum he told Roger. But I am clear that he told me he'd use the money on preparing Sylvia's records for formal deposit. He used the word "accessioning" and I told him accessioning is the responsibility of the libraries. He agreed.

If by then had had signed a contract with Stone, that could have troubled him much and he could have felt that he'd betrayed the trust of a friend.

He told Roger he'd use the money for his foundation out there.

He could also have been troubled if he'd contracted if he then learned that Stone intends to glorify Garrison and his dishonest "On the Trail of the Assassins." I can't begin to tell you how crook ed and dishonest that book is but I assure you it is not possible to exaggerate. I was there when you were not and I am involved, as you'd never know from the book, is some of the indidents of which he makes much. I'll tell you of one because I can send you an FBI record confirming what I say. You'll remember his account of Boxley flying out to Albuquerque for no apparent reason and Jim's feigned indignation over that waste of his skimpy funds. Well, the real reason Boxley was there was to protect him armed, against a mafia threat conveyed to me by phone about 3 a.m. M.O. time. I was there. Harv Morgan phoned me with the report, partly confirmed before he phoned, I taped the conversation, woke Ivon up, he picked me up, we went to the office and he and staff conferred in private and when they finished they agreed to one of the things I'd proposed, that I notify the FBI. I have this and can send it and it confirms what I am telling you. And instead of sending Boxley packing he took him out there and they lived it up for a week at the Century Plaza. When Jim had a package delivered either he or Boxley though it mi might be a bomb. In any event, Boxley filled a tub with water, got the package completely wet, then opened it - and they saw the ruined gift of books.

His account of how and why he fired Boxley is 100% false, and I have my own records on that. After it was over. Sciambra told he, "Hal, you just saved Jim Garrison from being disbarred by the Supreme Court of the United States!"

I've written Oliver Stone in more detail about these things and I do not expect either an answer or any changes in his script. But from the books reportedly to which he has boght the rights he is going for all the nutty conspiracy theories and that will do much damage with the attention he 'll get. Although I do not expect the federal agencies

xxxxx to pay any attention to the movie, if it hurts them they are overloaded on Garrison and his absolute insanities. If they release any of that truth is buried that much deeper.

. I have not begun to indicate that of which I have first-person knowledge. Aside from which I have some CIA and FBI recofds. The FBI had at least one source inside his office and I believe more. I know more on one matter but I'm being conservative in not saying it was more than one matter. Remember, U sued the FBI for the Noew Orleans records.

I'm not able to do much but I'd like all the info I g can get as a metter ofhistorical record and to be able to inform people.

IN case tou've forgotten I remind you of something Greg had no way of knowing. The only case in which he had any interest is RFK. Sylvia opposed Garrison from the outset, was rather eloqwent in denouncing him, and even sent Thornley $100 to help him defend himself. If Greg signed a contract and learned that....When we spoke I did not know that Stone's script glorifies Garrison. Garrison even approved it and said it was excellent.

The Timesm story sai Lifton breakfasted with Greg shortly before Greg Killed himself. I'd be interested in knowing if any of this came up then. I think we all should be.

It was a terrible tragedy. Greg had done more than he'd had any right to expect to be able to do. Nobody could have done any better. He did not fail. Not on RFK.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold